

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 20, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 3, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 12, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 30, 2009

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 520**

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**Introduced by Senator Pavley  
(Coauthors: Senators Alquist and Romero)**

February 26, 2009

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An act to ~~amend Section 51225.3 of~~ *add Section 51225.31 to* the Education Code, relating to high school curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 520, as amended, Pavley. High school curriculum: community service.

Existing law sets forth the courses a pupil is required to complete while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to graduate from high school and authorizes the governing board of a school district to specify by rule other required coursework.

This bill would authorize the governing board of a school district to offer credit, as specified, for hours of community service provided outside of regular school hours by a pupil, for a maximum of 2 semesters. The bill would require a school district that elects to offer credit for community service to establish and maintain a list of suitable community service organizations from which a pupil would be required to choose to complete the community service hours. The bill also would require a school district to require the pupil to submit a report or other

academic assignments, as determined by the district, on the community service experience and would require the community service organization to verify the hours served by the pupil.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     *SECTION 1. Section 51225.31 is added to the Education Code,*  
2     *to read:*

3     *51225.31. The governing board of a school district may elect*  
4     *to offer credit in an amount that is equivalent to that of a*  
5     *one-semester elective course in that district for hours of community*  
6     *service provided outside of regular school hours by a pupil in an*  
7     *amount that may be equal to or greater than 60 hours per semester,*  
8     *as determined by the district, for a maximum of any two semesters*  
9     *that the pupil attends high school. A school district that elects to*  
10    *offer credit for community service shall establish and maintain a*  
11    *list of suitable community service organizations, excluding*  
12    *organizations whose sole purpose is political advocacy, from which*  
13    *a pupil shall choose to complete the community service hours,*  
14    *shall require a pupil to submit a report or other academic*  
15    *assignments, as determined by the district, to a school*  
16    *representative on the community service experience, and shall*  
17    *require the community service organization to verify the hours*  
18    *served by the pupil.*

19    ~~SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is~~  
20    ~~amended to read:~~

21    ~~51225.3. (a) No pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation~~  
22    ~~from high school who, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not~~  
23    ~~completed all of the following:~~

24    ~~(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects~~  
25    ~~specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless~~  
26    ~~otherwise specified:~~

27    ~~(A) Three courses in English.~~

28    ~~(B) Two courses in mathematics.~~

29    ~~(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical~~  
30    ~~sciences.~~

31    ~~(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States~~  
32    ~~history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a~~

1 ~~one-semester course in American government and civics, and a~~  
2 ~~one-semester course in economics.~~

3 ~~(E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.~~  
4 ~~For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this~~  
5 ~~subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be~~  
6 ~~deemed a course in foreign language.~~

7 ~~(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been~~  
8 ~~exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.~~

9 ~~(2) Other coursework as the governing board of the school~~  
10 ~~district may by rule specify.~~

11 ~~(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,~~  
12 ~~administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means~~  
13 ~~for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may~~  
14 ~~include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,~~  
15 ~~supervised work experience or other outside school experience,~~  
16 ~~career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses~~  
17 ~~offered by regional occupational centers or programs,~~  
18 ~~interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a~~  
19 ~~postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and~~  
20 ~~specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course~~  
21 ~~of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.~~

22 ~~(c) The governing board of a school district may elect to offer~~  
23 ~~credit in an amount that is equivalent to that of a one-semester~~  
24 ~~elective course in that district for hours of community service~~  
25 ~~provided outside of regular school hours by a pupil in an amount~~  
26 ~~that may be equal to or greater than 60 hours per semester, as~~  
27 ~~determined by the district, for a maximum of any two semesters~~  
28 ~~that the pupil attends high school. A school district that elects to~~  
29 ~~offer credit for community service shall establish and maintain a~~  
30 ~~list of suitable community service organizations, excluding~~  
31 ~~organizations whose sole purpose is political advocacy, from which~~  
32 ~~a pupil shall choose to complete the community service hours,~~  
33 ~~shall require a pupil to submit a report or other academic~~  
34 ~~assignments, as determined by the district, to a school~~  
35 ~~representative on the community service experience, and shall~~  
36 ~~require the community service organization to verify the hours~~  
37 ~~served by the pupil.~~

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